

Each of the speakers commended the residents of the valley for their fine spirit of cooperation in making the park possible.

"The history of Utah is a history of cooperation and there has never been a greater story than this one here," Governor Clyde remarked.

President Moyle encouraged everyone to show continued "statesmanship" in bringing the reality of the park to fulfillment.

"I believe we could follow no wiser course than to permit the state to outline the course to follow because the State Park Commission are sufficiently removed to paint a much more impartial, more fair and wiser picture of the park development and bring it to successful use. This is not alone a Heber Valley park, nor just a state park, it is a national project and those who have contributed are to be highly praised," President Moyle said.

In the meantime, the Wasatch County Commission took steps to zone a half-mile buffer area around the park to prohibit commercial developments and land speculation in the areas nearest the park site. The zoning prohibited all but farms and single dwellings within one-half mile of the park.

The cooperation of Wasatch residents in bringing about the park won recognition throughout the state, but to those in the county it was another pioneering step and another record of accomplishment and achievement by its governing board, the Wasatch County Commission.

County government, as noted in the previous chapter, began in 1862 with the formation of the county court and appointment of selectmen as officers of the court. The board of selectmen served in the county until 1896 when statehood was granted Utah, and the commission form of county government was adopted.

Many changes have occurred in a century of life in the valley, with government influence growing from Church-centered control to an active board of commissioners. Yet, in spite of a more complex organization, the fundamental principles of county government have remained constant. The early minute books of the old selectmen and the latest records of the county commission all reflect a desire on the part of elected officials to set aside partisanship and selfishness and give citizens throughout the valley effective and efficient leadership.

As noted in the previous chapter, the first county organization was established on January 17, 1862, by act of the Territorial Legislature. The various offices of county government designated at that time were as follows:

Probate Judge, elected by the legislature; three county selectmen, elected by voters of the county, with the judge and the selectmen to constitute the county court. There was also a clerk appointed by the court, a treasurer elected by voters for a four-year term; a notary public, elected by the Legislature; a county surveyor, elected by the county; three election judges, appointed by the court; three school board trustees,

First Officials of Wasatch County



John W. Witt
Judge



Thomas Todd
Selectman



James Duke
Selectman



John H. Van Wagoner
Selectman



John Harvey
Assessor and Collector



John M. Murdock
Treasurer



Thomas H. Giles
Superintendent of common
schools



John Hamilton
Sheriff

Snelling M. Johnson
Sheriff
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John Sessions
Surveyor
(No picture available)

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At a December meeting of the commission Mr. Fabian called progress on the park and the land options "A remarkable story."

"All of these people have been very cooperative and helpful and we have treated everyone equally and fairly on the whole program," he said.

The year 1961 saw the bi-annual session of the Utah Legislature and enactment of Senate Bill 242 appropriating approximately \$1.5 million dollars for acquisition costs of park land. Governor Clyde signed the bill at appropriate ceremonies on Friday, March 10, 1961, at the State Capitol Building.

In his first official statement after signing of the legislation, Mr. Fabian praised the cooperation and team-work involved in the project.

"This has been a tremendous team effort from the state," Mr. Fabian said. "The residents of Heber Valley and Midway who cooperated in giving options, the Legislature, Governor Clyde for signing the law, the commissioners—everyone deserved high praise and credit for the job. I think I am more thrilled about the remarkable job of community effort and cooperation—the team effort of everyone—than anything else," he said.

Mr. Fabian also explained that the first steps toward the new park would be to map out plans for development.

"We want to start on the development just as soon as we can plan what we are going to do. This will have to be a long-range program, with integrated planning with the National Forest Service, whose land borders part of ours. We just can't jump into a full-blown park. We will pick up the options on the land as money becomes available, but we are going to start on planning right away," Mr. Fabian said.

The law, as passed by the legislature, allowed the park commission to acquire, on a time payment basis at three per cent interest, the necessary acreage of mountain land over a 10-year period.

Mr. Cummings, who worked with the park commission and residents of the area in securing the options was called in 1960 to a special mission for the LDS Church in Hawaii, and then subsequently as president of the Church's New Zealand Mission. He was succeeded in the park commission work by Nephi Probst.

So elated at the new park development and the action of the legislature and governor were the residents of Wasatch County that they held a victory celebration on Tuesday, April 4, 1961. "Heber Valley—U.S.A." was the theme of the testimonial banquet conducted in the Midway Town Hall and attended by more than 300 county residents and state officials.

Speakers included Harold Smith, president of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce, Governor Clyde, President Moyle, Mr. Fabian and Richard Van Winkle, chairman of the State Road Commission. Glen Hatch, Heber attorney and former state senator, was master of ceremonies.